

A TIMELY ARTICLE.

THE SUMMER SCHOOL ON LAKE CHAMPLAIN.

A Description of the Methods—An Account of the Locality—The Need and Objects of the School.

The summer school is one of the modes devised by modern educationists for imparting knowledge to the masses. In these establishments, lectures are given, and practical work is done in some of the subjects of a university curriculum, during some weeks in the summer, when relaxation or a change of occupation is sought by many engaged in literary, or commercial pursuits. Such institutions have been found most successful in satisfying, to some degree, the aspirations of thousands who have not the time or the means to acquire, in the ordinary way, the higher education they long for. Religious denominations have been successful in carrying on summer schools, in which lectures by prominent educators, and speakers of their persuasion, have shed some light, for the multitude, on ethical and scientific problems, and have been at the same time a plea for unity among members. This paper is designed to give Canadian readers, our students especially, a brief account of the origin and development of the Catholic Summer School.

The idea of a Catholic Summer School took definite form in 1892. During the summer of that year a programme of lectures, on subjects deemed of interest to Catholic hearers and readers, was carried out at New London, Conn. The committee of organization, approved by prominent members of the clergy and laity, had but a few weeks to secure lecturers and make the necessary preparations. But in spite of this fact, Catholics assembled from all parts of the country, in goodly numbers, to usher in with all due eclat, this new venture in Catholic education. The brightest anticipations of its promoters were surpassed; instead of having, as they expected, an average daily attendance of about one hundred and fifty, they were forced to accommodate almost five hundred. If the fathers of the project, ever entertained the slightest doubts of its success, these were quickly dispelled, by this convincing proof of the unbounded interest that the Catholics of America, showed in the Summer School, the year of its birth. During the season of '92, three lectures were delivered each day, but it was quite evident that this was too great a strain upon both lecturers and students. As a consequence, the committee of the present year decided to have only two lectures a day; one in the morning, the other in the evening. Thus, those attending the meetings, are left free during the heat of the day, to enjoy themselves in whatever manner they may desire.

The great success of the session of '92 compelled the committee to seek a site suitable for the permanent location of the school. The sub-committee appointed for this purpose spent several months in visiting the different places proposed for its site. After due consideration on the part of the supreme council, they decided to locate permanently at Plattsburg, N.Y.

Many towns offered special advantages to the school, but the citizens of Plattsburg, more enterprising than those of much larger and wealthier cities, bestowed upon the committee, the munificent gift of four hundred and fifty acres of hill and dale, gently sloping to the shores of the placid Lake Champlain. This donation should be all the more highly prized, coming as it does, from a town the majority of whose inhabitants is Protestant, and it is a convincing proof, that at length racial prejudice and religious bigotry, are fast giving way to that brotherly esteem and love, which should ever exist between Catholics and Protestants. We should rejoice that the benevolent spirit of "The Father of his country" is being rapidly infused into the hearts of his compatriots.

During the session of 1893, the lectures were delivered in the Opera House and Normal School. These buildings were placed at the disposal of the committee through the commendable generosity of the citizens of Plattsburg, who paid all expenses connected therewith. But during the coming year, the committee intends to erect assembly buildings, and lecture halls of its own. After sufficient space has been set aside for this purpose and

for the roads, walks, and gardens, the committee has resolved to sell, or to let the remainder of the land to those who wish to erect cottages, and bring their families with them to the meetings of the school. All the proceeds from these sales will be placed to the credit of the institution and thus it is hoped that it will become self-supporting.

Situated, as it is, upon the shores of the picturesque Lake Champlain, at the town of Plattsburg, around which cluster so many memories dear to the Catholic heart, the Summer School is blessed indeed with a favorite site. He who comes hither to quaff of the "Pierian spring," can drink deep of the lore of Greece and Rome, and at the same time be renewed in health and strength, by the invigorating breezes of the historic lake, which lies beneath him.

In this sequestered spot, the scholar is brought into contact with kindred spirits, his intellect is sharpened, and he renews his youth. Here Cooper found the materials for his characteristic American tales, which have lured more than one European scholar to forsake his beloved mother-land and come to dwell beneath the young flag, which proudly floats over such a delightful region. Champlain has been the scene of many a hard fought battle between the French and the English as they struggled for the supremacy over the vast continent of North America. It is enriched with the blood of patriots, who died fighting for the Stars and Stripes, in the long and weary war of Independence. The smiling waters of Lake Champlain roll calmly and peacefully over the corpses of scores of sailors who nobly perished in the defence of the land they called their home, during the sanguinary and foolish war of 1812.

Religion, too, has its memories still green in the hearts of Catholics, for that saintly man Champlain, whose name now rests upon the lake, was the first to bear the glad tidings of the Gospel to the poor benighted children of the forest. Remembering such patriotic deeds, indissolubly connected with the truths of religion, no Catholic American can fail to be aroused to that degree of enthusiasm which is always an unfailing harbinger of success.

A few remarks about the need and objects of the summer school will not be amiss. We Catholics in America have many colleges and universities scattered here and there throughout the land; but hitherto, we have no link, no tie to bind us together into one unit and collect into one vast assemblage our most prominent and learned priests, professors and laymen. We had a somewhat hazy indefinite idea that Professor A— was a clever man, that Mr. B— was a fluent ready speaker, but we had never listened to the erudite lectures of the former, nor revelled in the sparkling eloquence of the latter. The school on Lake Champlain supplies this long-felt want; it brings together our men of sciences; it makes them acquainted with one another, and we are enabled to hold communication with "The choice and master-spirits of the age."

We are all recognizant of the inestimable benefit to be derived from this meeting of Greek with Greek upon the battle-field of Minerva. This school then, will be national in its character; the representatives of the sunny South will mingle in solemn conclave with the sturdy delegates from the North. Each will derive many benefits from that meeting.

Are we Canadians to hold aloof from this concourse of learning? No; we are cordially invited by our American cousins to take part in its deliberations, and we surely shall not fail to profit of such a golden opportunity. If the Catholics of Canada unite with those of the States the result will be beneficial to both; they will come to know each other better. There will be an intermingling of thought, an exchange of ideas, a comparison of their different methods of teaching.

We do not see any valid reason why the Catholics of Canada should not join hands with their American brothers and make the Summer School, what its founders intended it to be—the centre and quintessence of Catholic thought of North America. If this desired result could be obtained, then indeed, would Champlain shed a brilliant lustre upon the Church in America and cause it to be a credit and glory of the See of Peter, which has withstood the trials and tribulations of well-nigh twenty centuries.

Nothing succeeds like success, and the Catholic Summer School has been an undoubted success as is amply testified by its increased number of students this year, netting a daily attendance of almost a thousand. The excellence of the course is made manifest by a brief glance at its syllabus for '93, which comprises five lectures on "Science and Religion," four on "Logic," one on "Columbus and the Discovery of America," one on "The Representative Women of the American Revolution," five on "Educational Epochs," five on "Studies Among Famous Authors," one on "Catholic Educational Institutions," one on "The Life and Lyric Poetry of Longfellow," one on "Genius and Society," three on "Evidences of Religion," two on "The Celtic Element in English Literature," one on "What we owe to the Summa of St. Thomas," one on "The Narrative Poems, Dramatic and Prose Works of Longfellow." The Syllabus also includes conferences for teachers and organizers of reading circles.

In addition to all the advantages we have mentioned, the Summer School has received its charter of incorporation from the Board of Regents of the University of the State of New York, and will be thus enabled to place at the disposal of its patrons the treasures of the state library.

Since then, the school is so highly favored and is under the ægis of that church which has ever been the torch-bearer of universal truth, one need not be a prophet nor the son of a prophet, to predict for it a brilliant future.—ALBERT NEWMAN, '93, in the Ottawa University "Owl" for October.

OBITUARY.

We regret to be called upon to announce the death of Mr. Robert O'Keefe, son of our esteemed friend Mr. John O'Keefe, formerly of Ottawa and Plantagenet and now of Montreal. The sad event took place at the Hotel Dieu Hospital on Friday the 10th instant. The funeral was on Saturday afternoon, the 11th November, from the Hospital Chapel to the Roman Catholic cemetery at Cote des Niegés. The deceased was in his thirty-first year and fell a victim to that dread and lingering disease consumption. His protracted struggle was suffered with great patience and fortitude, and his death was truly exemplary. Mr. O'Keefe has the sincere sympathy of his many friends; this is the eighth death in his family during the past few years—all the prey to the same disease. We trust that Providence will spare the bereaved father for many a day and will not allow the angel of death to revisit his home for a long time to come. The TRUE WITNESS extends its sympathy to the relatives of deceased and expresses the hope that the soul departed may rest in peace.

Nearly half a century ago the Apostleship of Prayer was established among the young Jesuits of Vals. The golden jubilee of the founding of the League of the Sacred Heart will be celebrated all over the world next year.

IT COVERS A GOOD DEAL OF GROUND

—Dr. Pierce's Golden Medical Discovery. And when you hear that it cures so many diseases, perhaps you think "it's too good to be true."

But it's only reasonable. As a blood-cleanser, flesh-builder, and strength-restorer, nothing like the "Discovery" is known to medical science. The diseases that it cures come from a torpid liver, or from impure blood. For everything of this nature, it is the only guaranteed remedy. In Dyspepsia, Biliousness; all Bronchial, Throat and Lung affections; every form of Scrofula, even Consumption (or Lung-scrofula) in its earlier stages, and in the most stubborn Skin and Scalp Diseases—if it ever fails to benefit or cure, you have your money back.

The worse your Catarrh, the more you need Dr. Sage's Catarrh Remedy. Its proprietors offer \$500 cash for a case of Catarrh in the Head which they cannot cure.

Castor Fluid Registered. A delightfully refreshing preparation for the hair. It should be used daily. Keeps the scalp healthy, prevents dandruff, promotes the growth; a perfect hair dressing for the family. 25 cts. per bottle. HENRY B. GRAY, Chemist, 122 St. Lawrence street, Montreal.

THE WORLD AROUND.

The government's interest in the Union Pacific railway will be amply protected.

Fifteen new brigades, equivalent to 150,000 men, have been added to the Russian army.

Emperor Francis Joseph, of Austria, accepted Monday the resignation of his entire cabinet.

President Carnot has decided to be a candidate for re-election to the presidential chair of France.

Thomas F. Bayard, United States ambassador, has leased a house in Princess Gardens, London, for several years.

The British Parliament met Thursday in adjourned session. Mr. Gladstone arrived in London looking unusually robust.

It is said the Emperor of Austria has decided to dissolve the Reichsrath, and that he hopes to avoid accepting Count Taaffe's resignation.

A dispatch from Berne conveys the news of a crushing defeat for the Socialists throughout Switzerland, only one of their candidates being elected.

The Fithian bill for the free admission to America, of ships built in foreign countries, was ordered to be favorably reported to the House by committee.

The steamer Lucania sailed from Liverpool, Saturday, with five hundred thousand dollars in gold bars, consigned to Lazard Freres & Co., of New York.

The Grand Opera House of Paris has the distinction of being the largest theatre in the world. It covers more than three acres of ground and cost \$63,000,000 francs.

Emperor Francis Joseph, of Austria, this week accepted the resignation of the members of the cabinet. Count Karl Hohenwart zu Gerlachstein has been asked to form a ministry.

One of the significant evidences of the universality of the regard felt for Cardinal Gibbons was the telegram of congratulation sent from Philadelphia by the Jewish Rabbis assembled in conference there.

General Margello, commander-in-chief of the Spanish troops at Melilla, in Morocco, was shot dead last Saturday while leading a sortie against the Rifians. Seventy of his men were killed and 122 wounded.

The iron and steel manufacturers have decided to force the Amalgamate Association to accept a cut of 10 per cent in wages. If they refuse to accede, the mills will be operated by non-union men. Eighteen thousand workmen are affected.

The chief mosque of Damascus was burned on the night of the 14th ult. The fire extended to and destroyed all the houses on the street adjacent to the mosque. The loss is estimated at £1,000,000. The Sultan has contributed £500,000 to help rebuild the mosque and relieve the poor sufferers.

The explosion of a barrel of whisky in the big warehouse of the Chautauqua Lake Ice Company, Thursday afternoon, caused a big blaze and the destruction of half a million dollars worth of property in Pittsburg, while eight people were seriously injured and a score of others more or less hurt.

OBSTINATE COUGH CURED.

GENTLEMEN,—I had a very bad cough which I could not get rid of, but by using Hagyard's Pectoral Balsam I was cured in two or three days. It is the best and surest cough medicine I know of. JOSEPH GARRICK, Goderich, Ont.

Brother Valerian has sent to the association of Mary Immaculate, in Paris, France, 756,000 cancelled stamps. These stamps are sold, and the proceeds applied to the conversion of the heathen.

DIZZINESS CAUSED BY DYSPEPSIA.

Dizziness is a symptom of dyspepsia. "I have used Burdock Blood-Bitters for dizziness, which came over me in spells, so that I had to quit work for a while. The B.B.B. entirely cured me." James Wright, Chesterfield, Ont.

How Time Passes—Tom: I was thinking of taking a fortnight's holiday tomorrow. Sam: That's what I call "killing time." Tom—squeezing fourteen days into one.